



Retail Forum Working Group Minutes: Future of Retail – Green Transition

6 September 2023

Meeting 7

CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY

Attendees: Appendix A

Minutes: The minutes from this meeting are to be agreed under Silence Procedure and will be available on www.enterprise.gov.ie

Item 1: Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees.

Item 2: Presentation from Primark

Primark gave an overview of their sustainability strategy 'Primark Cares'. A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to Working Group members.

Item 3: Presentation from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)

The NSAI gave an overview of their Management System Certification focusing on ISO14001 Environmental Management System and ISO 50001 Energy Management System. The NSAI also advised that a new ESG standard is being developed for Public Sector Bodies. A copy of the Presentation will be forwarded to Working Group members.

Comments Arising

- The criteria for each standard remains the same irrespective of company size but the number of audit days changes.
- Cost depends on the number of audit days or specialised schemes.

Item 4: Working Group Actions

The Chair reviewed each of the Green Transition draft actions of the 2023-2024 Retail Forum Work Programme with members and asked the Group for feedback on these actions or any further actions.

Comments Arising

- A large retailer raised the point about the complexity of EU legislation and gave an example of the Impact of the soon to be adopted EU regulation on intentionally added microplastic (under REACH Annex XVII). They added that this includes glitter and tiny decorative beads on products such as cards. They said that there will be 20 days from the date of signature to enforcement of the regulation, and they didn't realise the impact of the regulations on their products.
- The Chair advised the Group that the list of legislation on the 'Retail Sector in Ireland' webpage is updated regularly and if members are aware of any additional legislation to make the Secretariat aware of it. The Chair reminded the Group that the legislative

Units in various Departments deal with legislation and the Retail Unit does not claim to include all legislation impacting the Retail Sector, on the Retail Sector webpage.

No further feedback received from members on the Green Transition Work Programme actions. The Chair asked Group to contact Retail Unit should they consider anything further.

**Retail Section
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
6 September 2023**

Appendix A

Retail Forum Working Group: Future of Retail – Green Transition

Attendees

Organisation	First Name	Surname
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair)	Marian	Cassidy
Chambers Ireland	James	Kiernan
Hardware Association Ireland	Jim	Copeland
IKEA	Martyn	Allen
Retail Ireland	Samira	Nicolo
RGDATA	Tara	Buckley
SEAI	Ali	Donnellan

Apologies

Organisation	First Name	Surname
LEO Network	Joe	Lowe

Presenters

Organisation	First Name	Surname
NSAI	Ronan	Bairead
NSAI	Stewart	Hickey
Primark (Working Group member)	Emma	Ormond